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of forms is not of so much interest to us, for we have several smaller areas in western Vermont where there are more than twenty forms ; we are more interested in the large tract practically given up to thorns. The grounds about the Fort and much of the rest of the Point are pastured and most of this region is a great thorn orchard and in many places a dense thorn thicket.

One is surprised to find the dominant species the southern *Crataegus Crus-galli* L., known in New England only at a few stations in Connecticut and along Lake Champlain in Vermont.

The northern *Crataegus coccinea rotundifolia* Sarg. is also abundant.

As yet none of the group *Tenuifoliae,* the most common in New England, has been found there. All of the forms in the following list the writer has seen growing there excepting those accredited to Professors Brainerd, Peck, and Sargent.

Crataegus Champlainensis Sarg.; *C. coccinea* L., *C. H. Peck ; C. coccinea rotundifolia* Sarg.; *C. Crus-galli* L.; *C. exclusa* Sarg., *C. H. Peck ; C. flabellata,* Spach ; *C. Holmesiana* Ashe, *Brainerd* and *Sargent ; C. lobulata,* Sarg.; *C. macracantha* Koehne (also a hairy form) ; *C. praecoqua* Sarg.; *C. Pringlei* Sarg.; *C. pruinosa* Beadle ; *C. punctata* Jacq.; *C. submollis* Sarg. (?) *C. H. Peck.*

SHORTER NOTES

Crataegus Porteri Britton. — Abundant flowering specimens and ripe fruits of this species (described in Bulletin of the New York Botanical Garden, 1 : 448) recently received from Mr. Wm. M. Canby who has visited the region about Tannersville, Pa., where the type specimen was collected by me in 1896, enable me to supply the following supplementary description of the plant :

A tree 6.5 m. high or less, with long flexuous straggling branches and a short trunk 1.5–2 dm. thick, with light-colored and smooth bark. Leaves thickish, very smooth, rounded or abruptly tapering at the base, acute, with two or three sharp lobes on each side : cymes few-flowered, about 4 cm. broad ;

bracts narrow, glandular; pedicels 1–2 cm. long, glabrous; stamens about 20, with white anthers: pome pyriform up to the time of ripening, when fully ripe obovoid to spherical, but often drying pyriform, a little more than 1 cm. in diameter and a little longer than thick, dull red with green blotches.

The tree flowers about the middle of May, and the fruit ripens in early October.

According to Mr. Canby's observations, the plant is not uncommon in the vicinity of Tannersville.

N. L. BRITTON.

REVIEWS

The Desert Botanical Laboratory of the Carnegie Institution*

This volume contains the report of the advisory board, consisting of Mr. F. V. Coville and Dr. D. T. MacDougal, which was appointed to investigate the selection of a site for the Carnegie Desert Laboratory in the arid regions of the West. The report will be of unusual interest to botanists, not only because it deals with one of the most important botanical departures in this country and promises results of the highest biological importance, but also because the authors have given sufficient knowledge of the flora and conditions prevailing in these arid belts to reveal the wealth of material afforded for physiological and geographical study. The majority of botanists have not had the opportunity of visiting the areas covered by the report and to such and to people in general the diversity of climate, topography, mechanical, chemical and physical conditions which obtain in these desert districts will come with something of surprise. The information concerning the areas and distribution of these arid regions in the Chihuahua and the Sonora-Nevada desert belts, which occupy more than a million square miles of plateaus and plains east and west of the main Cordilleran ranges together with data upon the meteorology and other conditions controlling plant-life in these areas is an important supplement to the meager and often misleading current information upon this subject.

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* Carnegie Institution of Washington, Publication, No. 6. Pp. i–vi, 1–58. *pl. 1–39* + *f. 1–4*. "N 1903." [Issued J 1904.]